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Contributors

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BROMYARD URBAN DISTRICT

Herefordshire

Joint
ANNUAL REPORT
of the
Medical Officer of Health
and of the
Public Health Inspector
for the year 1966

THE

ANNUAL REPORT

1910

OF THE

COMMISSION

ON THE

WATER

RESOURCES


OF THE

STATE

OF

NEW

YORK



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To the Chairman and Members,

Bromyard Urban District Council.

Mr. Chairman, Mrs. Powell, Gentlemen,

I have the honour to present what will be, I think, the last Annual Report on the health of the Urban District of Bromyard, before its merger with its Rural neighbour.

I am glad to be able to state that the report is satisfactory, the birth rate is high and we have once again suffered no infant or maternal deaths, which reflects great credit on the nursing and medical services of the area.

My thanks are due to Mr. Maxwell for his hard work during the year, and for supplying details of these activities for inclusion in this report.

G.D.K. NEEDHAM

Medical Officer of Health

STATISTICS AND VITAL STATISTICS OF THE AREA

Area (in acres)	213
Estimated mid-year home population	1,710
Average number of persons per acre	8.0
Number on inhabited houses	627
Average number of inhabited houses per acre	3.0
Average number of persons per house	2.7
Rateable Value	£56,289
Sum represented by a Penny Rate	£210

LIVE AND STILL BIRTHSLive Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	15	13	28
Illegitimate	1	4	5
	<u>16</u>	<u>17</u>	<u>33</u>

Live Birth Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

Comparability factor: 1.12	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962
Bromyard U.D. (Crude)	19.3	14.7	19.0	17.6	13.8
" " (Adjusted)	21.6	16.5	21.3	19.7	14.6
England and Wales	17.7	18.0	18.4	18.2	18.0

Illegitimate Live Births

Per cent of total live births:

Bromyard U.D. ..	15.1
England and Wales ..	*

Still Births

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Still Birth Rate per 1,000 total live and still births:

	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962
Bromyard U.D.	Nil	38.5	Nil	Nil	Nil
England and Wales	15.4	15.7	16.3	17.2	18.1

*figure not yet available

INFANT DEATH RATESEarly Neonatal MortalityDeaths of Infants under 1 week old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	--	-

Early Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births:

Bromyard U.D.	..	Nil
England and Wales	..	11.1

Neonatal MortalityDeaths of Infants under 4 weeks old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Neonatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live births:

Bromyard U.D.	..	Nil
England and Wales	..	12.9

Perinatal MortalityStill Births and Deaths of Infants under 1 week old

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Perinatal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:

Bromyard U.D.	..	Nil
England and Wales	..	26.3

Infant MortalityDeaths of Infants under 1 year of age

	Males	Females	Total
Legitimate	-	-	-
Illegitimate	-	-	-

Infant Mortality Rate per 1,000 related live births:

		1966	1965	1964	1963	1962
Bromyard U.D.	(Total)	Nil	Nil	62.5	34.5	Nil
	(Legitimate)	Nil	Nil	69.0	38.5	Nil
	(Illegitimate)	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil	Nil
England & Wales	(Total)	19.0	19.0	19.9	21.1	21.6
	(Legitimate)	*	*	19.4	20.8	21.3
	(Illegitimate)	*	*	26.3	26.0	27.2

MATERNAL MORTALITY

Total number of Maternal Deaths .. Nil

Maternal Mortality Rate per 1,000 live and still births:

Bromyard U.D.	.. Nil
England and Wales	.. 0.26

DEATHS

		Males	Females	Total
Total number of deaths from all causes:		15	12	27
Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:				
Comparability factor: 0.99				
Bromyard U.D. (Crude)	1966	15.9	9.4	11.3
" " (Adjusted)	1965	15.7	8.6	11.4
England and Wales	1964	11.7	11.5	11.3
	1963			12.2
	1962			11.9

Cancer

		Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Malignant Disease:		4	3	7
Cancer Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:				
	1966			
Bromyard U.D.	1965	4.09	1.76	1.19
England and Wales	1964	*	2.23	2.20
	1963			3.03
	1962			3.00

Cardio-Vascular Disease

		Males	Females	Total
Total deaths from Cardio-Vascular Disease:		6	8	14

*figures not yet available

Cardio-Vascular Disease Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:

	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962
Bromyard U.D.	8.19	5.29	4.27	7.88	7.78
England and Wales	*	5.95	5.73	5.22	6.14

Respiratory Disease (Excluding Tuberculosis)

	Males	Females	Total		
Total deaths from Respiratory Disease:	1	-	1		
Respiratory Disease Death Rate per 1,000 estimated mid-year home population:					
	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962
Bromyard U.D.	0.60	0.59	1.78	1.21	0.60
England and Wales	*	1.41	1.37	1.71	1.57

*figures not yet available

CAUSES OF DEATH (all ages)

	Males	Females	Total
Malignant neoplasm, stomach	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, lung, bronchus	1	-	1
Malignant neoplasm, uterus	-	1	1
Other malignant & lymphatic neoplasms	2	2	4
Vascular lesions of nervous system	-	1	1
Coronary disease, angina	5	4	9
Other heart disease	1	2	3
Other circulatory disease	-	1	1
Bronchitis	1	-	1
Other defined and ill-defined diseases	2	1	3
Accidents, other than motor vehicle	2	-	2
	15	12	27

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE - BROMYARD URBAN DISTRICT

Disease	1966	1965	1964	1963	1962
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	2	-
Measles	38	23	16	116	-
Dysentery	1	-	-	-	-
Food Poisoning	2	1	-	-	-
Tuberculosis:					
Pulmonary	-	-	1	-	-
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	1	-	-
Malaria (Contracted abroad)	-	-	-	-	1

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASE - NORTH HEREFORDSHIRE

Whooping Cough	37	5	70	29	13
Measles	271	525	609	507	337
Scarlet Fever	29	12	8	12	9
Erysipelas	4	3	2	3	5
Acute Encephalitis:					
Infective	2	-	-	2	2
Post-Infectious	-	-	-	1	2
Acute Pneumonia	9	3	8	13	15
Dysentery	92	6	3	7	1
Food Poisoning	9	8	14	7	5
Paratyphoid Fever	-	-	-	2	1
Tuberculosis:					
Pulmonary	4	8	10	9	7
Non-Pulmonary	3	3	3	1	2
Malaria (Contracted abroad)	-	-	-	-	1
Puerperal Pyrexia	-	-	1	1	1

INFECTIOUS DISEASES NOTIFIED IN NORTH HEREFORDSHIRE DURING THE YEAR 1966

Disease	Jan.	Feb.	Mar.	Apl.	May	June	July	Aug.	Sept.	Oct.	Nov.	Dec.	TOTAL
Whooping Cough	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	1	1	3	26	6	37
Measles	52	8	4	5	2	2	3	15	39	21	35	85	271
Scarlet Fever	5	2	1	-	3	8	1	-	5	-	-	4	29
Erysipelas	-	1	1	-	-	1	-	-	-	-	1	-	4
Acute Encephalitis:													
Infective	-	-	-	2	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	-	2
Acute Pneumonia	-	-	4	1	-	-	-	-	1	1	1	1	9
Dysentery	-	-	-	1	1	4 ³	2	3	-	-	2	40	92
Food Poisoning	-	4	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	3	9
Tuberculosis:													
Pulmonary ⁴	1	-	-	1	-	1	1	-	-	-	-	-	4
Non-Pulmonary	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	1	-	-	-	3

NOTIFICATION OF INFECTIOUS DISEASECOMPARATIVE CASE RATES FOR CERTAIN INFECTIOUS DISEASES

Disease	North Herefordshire	England & Wales
Whooping Cough	1.00	0.40
Measles	7.33	7.15
Scarlet Fever	0.78	0.44
Erysipelas	0.11	0.03
Acute Pneumonia	0.24	0.17
Dysentery	2.49	0.44
Food Poisoning	0.24	0.09
Tuberculosis:		
Pulmonary	0.11	0.26
Non-Pulmonary	0.08	0.04

TUBERCULOSIS

	Pulmonary		Non-Pulmonary	
	Males	Females	Males	Females
Number on Register at 31st December, 1965	6	3	1	-
Moved out of district	1	-	-	-
Number on Register at 31st December, 1966.	5	3	1	-

Year	New Notifications	Total cases on Register	Deaths	Recoveries
1962	-	13	-	-
1963	-	8	1	1
1964	1	10	-	-
1965	-	10	-	-
1966	-	9	-	-

NATIONAL ASSISTANCE ACT, 1948, Section 47
NATIONAL ASSISTANCE (Amendment) ACT, 1951

No action needed to be taken under this section during the year.

PUBLIC HEALTH INSPECTOR'S SECTION OF REPORT

The progress of a local authority in vital and essential matters does not always receive "The Press" to which it is entitled. With the prospect of Bromyard Urban District being merged with the adjoining Rural District to form a new authority, I feel that some of the achievements should be mentioned in this report which, if not the last, is one of the last reports of the district. Bromyard with its population of 1,700, though classed as a market town, is smaller than many villages in many rural districts, but despite this, the Council have built over 150 Council houses since 1937, and of these 128 have been erected in the post-war period. The new Ballhurst Estate was the first project, which was then followed by the Coronation Avenue development, when the first experience of flatted dwellings were tried. These proved such a success that in the final phase of the Bannut Tree Estate over 20 such houses were erected.

In this development the Council realised that they were moving to a 'motor age' and provided a block of garages for tenants use, but unfortunately except for a certain few, the majority of the tenants prefer to leave their cars parked in the streets, causing congestion, and a number of the garages had to be let to private tenants.

Following this extensive housing development, the Council at that time led by Councillors H. Robinson, J.P., F.J. Wall, G.T. Ross, Mrs. E.C. Powell and D.H. Evans, realised that provision must be made for the aged, and this resulted in the first Old Persons Bungalows being erected in the town. The Council were the first authority in the County to give a lead in such a project, "The Schallenge" which has been admired and inspected by local authorities from all over the Midlands. The zeal of the Councillors of that time still existed during the past year and again the Council were the pioneers of the first "Guildway Old Persons Bungalows" to be erected in the Midlands. The six dwellings so erected were visited and inspected in the first month by over 70 local authority and 200 private individuals. In the field of housing despite moans and groans, for its size, Bromyard has made more than average contribution to the housing of its people.

In other spheres in the post-war period we have seen the introduction of direct labour refuse collection and disposal, and the purchase of proper collection vehicles to ensure hygienic methods of collection: the provision of two sewage disposal plants, one to deal with Ballhurst and the York Road area, and the main works at Petty Bridge where the most modern of purification and treatment has ensured that the River Frome, having been a public sewer for centuries, has now become a clean river where fish can now be seen swimming in place of the thick grey sewage and floating matter that used to pollute not only the stream but also the river banks. The provision of car parking space in the Square, Kings Arms and Pump Street, have shown that the Council realise the value of attracting visitors to the town, and the proposal of another car park and public convenience is now about to be fulfilled. Since the closure of the Churchyard, the maintenance of this area falls on the Council and until this year the Council maintained the area and have improved the approach to the Church.

Progress has been made in improving the public lighting and many other services, even in such small things as providing seats for the aged have shown that despite criticism there has been progress, though slow, for the benefit of all. When one considers the multifarious duties imposed on the Council and the staff employed, I feel that many of our larger authorities could take a lesson from Bromyard.

WATER SUPPLY

Number of houses connected to the mains: 655

No shortage has been experienced during the past year, and the Herefordshire Water Board have increased the pressure which has proved a great advantage to the dwellings situated on the higher ground. Only one grumble can be made of this comparatively new body, in that complaints have to be transmitted to Hereford for attention. A few of the consumers have protested to this office, and are informed that the Water Board controls the supplies and that we can only transmit the complaints and not take action.

SEWERAGE AND SEWAGE DISPOSAL

It is pleasing to report that for the first time since taking over my appointment here almost 20 years ago, not one adverse report was received on the sewage effluent from the River Authority. This has been due to the efficient work of the sewage works attendant and to the purchase of a new pump which is used regularly to empty the humus and sludge tanks, so ensuring a pure and cleaner effluent. The alteration of the Sheep Street sewer has eliminated the flooding that used to occur in Cruxwell Street, but vandalism caused a chokage in one of the main sewers, which, if it had not been attended to immediately, could have caused a complete stoppage of the majority of sewers. The chokage was caused by a household bucket being placed in one of the main sewers; the only way it could have entered the sewers was via an inspection chamber.

HOUSING

Where, where can we build in Bromyard? This is a question regularly asked. No matter what the Council say about having more development in the town, can any progress be reported? Even proposals of Housing Associations that are willing to erect houses either for rent or sale receive very little support from the County Department dealing with planning. We are often told that there exists 120 sites in the Urban area where outline permission has been granted, but in some cases where outline permission has been granted and another application has been made, applicants have been informed that the existing outline permission has become obsolete and new applications are required with full details of buildings etc., but applicants do not wish to go to such expense of detailed plans, hence land lies derelict.

Personally I would like to see the proposals of the recent report that planning be on a regional scale, and that the same policy be a standard for the West Midland region, and I am certain Bromyard would benefit and prosper from such a policy.

HOUSING (Continued)

At the end of the year six one bedroomed bungalows of the Guildway type were erected in the Schallenge. These were the first of this type in the Midlands, and from commencement of work until completion, the time was three months. The verdict of local authority representatives viewing these has been one of acclaim.

STANDARD GRANTS

Again the response to this facility to improve property was very poor.

COUNCIL HOUSES

The general condition of the houses was satisfactory, and only one family had to be reprimanded for allowing their house to become dirty.

RENT ACT, 1957 and 1965

Two cases under the 1965 Act were referred to the Rent Officer for the County.

PUBLIC CLEANSING

There has again been an increase in the average loads of refuse collected each week to 29. This means that there are now 1,508 loads of refuse per annum, and with a population of just over 1,700, this is almost a load per person per annum. The reason for this increase is due to packages and tins, and the bulk loading is about 20% greater than two years ago.

Each week 685 separate collections are made from the houses and business premises and this amounts to 36,620 collections per annum.

One problem which must be faced in the near future is the provision of either a new refuse disposal tip or the provision of some means whereby the rubbish can be pulverised and utilised for agricultural use. The tipping of refuse unless there is an efficient method of controlled tipping is obsolete, and such a practice causes complaints of vermin and flies if the tip is near any dwellings. The storage of refuse at the home also requires alteration and the use of proper storage bins with lids is essential in the interests of health.

CARAVAN SITES

The only site within the Urban district is run in an efficient and hygienic manner, and there has been no cause of complaint either from the occupiers or ratepayers in the district.

The site has been an asset to the town and as long as the present owner is in possession, I am certain it will continue to be a benefit to the town and the holidaymakers from the industrial Midlands who patronise the site.

PUBLIC CONVENIENCES

These are cleansed daily. In the ladies section the cleaner visits the premises 3 or 4 times daily and if they need cleansing, she carries out the work.

SHOPS, OFFICES & RAILWAY PREMISES ACT.

The administration of this Act has just been started during the past year and already there has been progress in the facilities required by the Act.

RODENT CONTROL

During the year the regular treatment of the refuse tip kept rodents under control. With the burning of waste paper much of the food thrown out was destroyed, thus the number of rodents decreased considerably.

FOOD INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION

Food Premises

The general conditions of the food premises was satisfactory.

One complaint received during the year about a butcher's shop was investigated and the owner warned about the offence: since that date there has been no cause for complaint.

Food Inspections

The prepackaging of fruit and vegetables has brought more hygienic conditions of food sales, but the amount of food lost through damaged or blown tins still reaches a high total. The exhibition of food tins in shop windows in all types of weather where there is no refrigeration can cause the loss of merchandise to the shop owners, and is a practice which should be discontinued unless the windows are refrigerated.

Meat Inspection

Eight persons are licensed to slaughter animals under the Slaughter of Animals Act, 1933-54. No licences include horse slaughtering.

In the inspection details on Page 15 it will be noted that 11 animals were condemned during the year. In every case these were casualties which were sent for slaughtering in the hope of gaining profit from ailing animals. Whilst one can see the farmer's point of view to try and obtain some recompense, I depreciate such a practice, for unless the butcher is honest, such animals could escape inspection and reach the public. I am glad to report that whenever a casualty is received in Bromyard I am immediately notified and all the organs and offal are left for inspection.

Meat Inspection (Continued)

Carcases and offal found to be unfit in whole or in part and surrendered:

	Cattle excluding cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed	517	6	28	1961	1874
Number inspected	517	6	28	1961	1874
<u>All diseases except Tubercul- osis & Cysticer- ci</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned	-	2	2	5	2
Carcases of which some part or organ was condemned	91	4	-	177	103
<u>Tuberculosis only</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned or car- cases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-
<u>Cysticerosis</u>					
Whole carcasses condemned or car- cases of which some part or organ was condemned	-	-	-	-	-

Unsound Meat Surrendered:

Abscesses	..	672 lb.	Oedema	..	104 lb.
Distomatosis	..	306 lb.	Parasites	..	452 lb.
Inflammation	..	56 lb.	Malignant growths	..	82 lb.
Septicaemia	..	519 lb.	Erysipelas	..	100 lb.
Melanosis	..	8 lb.	Angioma	..	24 lb.
Actinomycosis	..	6 lb.	Immaturity	..	37 lb.
Cirrhosis	..	79 lb.	Total	..	2445 lb.

SWIMMING BATHS

There are no public swimming baths in the district.

SHOPS ACT, 1950

21 visits were made specifically under this Act during the year. However other visits were made under other laws, such as the Food Hygiene Regulations, and the Offices, Shops and Railway Premises Act, 1963.

FOOD HYGIENETypes of Food Premises in district

Bakehouses	..	2
Cafes and Canteens	..	10
Grocers and General Stores	..	14
Greengrocers	..	6
Retail Fishmongers	..	3
Fried Fish Shops	..	2
Sweet Shops	..	9
Butchers	..	4
Licensed Premises	..	10

During the year fifteen visits were made to Bakers, 106 to Butchers shops, and fifteen to the Fried Fish shops.

Foodstuffs condemned

The following was surrendered by traders:

24 tins Pork	81 tins Tomatoes
38 " Corned Beef	60 " Peas
103 " Asstd. Meat Products.	41 " Evaporated Milk
33 " Grapefruit	36 " Pears
47 " Fruit Salad	4 " Creamed Rice
10 " Oranges	17 " Fish Products
49 " Peaches	22 " Apricots
14 lb. Margarine	28 lb. Herrings
56 lb. Butter	14 lb. Cod Roe
48 lb. Meat Pies	14 lb. Haddock
92 lb. Sausages	3 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb. Plaice
7 lb. Hake	14 lb. Skate

Total weight of all food condemned:

1 Ton, 10 Cwt. 4 $\frac{1}{2}$ lb.

Ice-Cream

All ice-cream sold in the district is pre-packed and stored under hygienic conditions.

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICTTotal numbers of Inspections

<u>Public Health Acts</u>		
Obstructed drains and sewers	..	12
Drainage sewer tests	..	12
General Nuisances:		
Dwellinghouses	..	28
Other Premises	..	19
Cleanliness of houses	..	4
Keeping of animals	..	1

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE DISTRICT (Continued)Total numbers of Inspections (Continued)

<u>Public Health Acts</u>		
Infestation (except Rodents)	..	2
Disinfection	..	4
Water supply	..	3
Moveable Dwellings	..	121
<u>Public Cleansing Service</u>		
Refuse collection	..	68
Refuse disposal	..	68
Cesspools	..	6
<u>General Inspections</u>		
Dwellinghouses	..	40
Hotels and places of entertainment		26
Public conveniences	..	104
Others	..	18
<u>Housing Acts</u>		
Improvement Grants	..	8
Housing Consolidated Regs.	..	2
Re-inspections	..	19
Overcrowding	..	1
Certificates of Disrepair	..	1
Rehousing applications	..	5
Housing Seuevy	..	2
<u>Prevention of Damage by Pests Act, 1949</u>		
Visits	..	14
Revisits	..	21
<u>Factories Acts, 1937 and 1948</u>		
Part I	..	28
<u>Shops Act, 1950</u>		
	..	21
<u>Food and Drugs Act</u>		
Fried fish shops	..	21
Butchers shops	..	109
Bakehouses	..	18
Grocery & general stores	..	62
Greengrocers & fishmongers	..	30
Hotel & catering kitchens	..	26
Other food preparing or serving premises	..	104
Confectionery shops	..	12
Ice-cream sellers	..	12
Licensed Premises	..	12
Slaughterhouses	..	194
Food delivery vans	..	18

SUMMARY OF REPAIRS AND SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS

<u>Interior of Houses</u>		
Sinks renewed	..	4
Sash cords repaired & windows repaired		3
Doors repaired or renewed	..	10
Chimney flues repaired	..	3
Defective gas pipes repaired	..	2
Burst water or defective water pipes repaired	..	16

SUMMARY OF REPAIRS AND SANITARY IMPROVEMENTS (Continued)Interior of Houses

Fireplaces repaired or renewed	..	8
Steps taken to combat dampness	..	5
Proper lighting and ventilation of food stores	..	2

Exterior of Houses

Gutters renewed or repaired	..	7
Leaking roofs repaired	..	10
Rainwater pipes renewed or repaired		2
Defective chimney pots repaired	..	2
Walls repointed	..	1
Yard pavings repaired	..	-
Outbuildings repaired	..	2

Drainage

Choked drains and sewers cleared	..	27
Waste pipes repaired or renewed	..	14
Manholes repaired	..	2
Choked W.Cs. repaired	..	4
New inspection chambers installed	..	4

Sanitary Conveniences

Flushing cisterns renewed or repaired		4
W.C. pedestals renewed	..	2
W.C. roofs repaired	..	2
W.C. doors repaired	..	1

FACTORIES ACTS, 1937 and 1959

	Number on Register	Number of		
		Inspections	Written Notices	Occupiers prosecuted
Factories in which Secs. 1,2,3,4, & 6 are to be enforced by the L.A.	17	28	-	-
Factories not in- cluded in above in which Sec.7 is en- forced by L.A.	-	-	-	-
Other premises in which Sec.7 is enforced by L.A.	-	-	-	-

Cases in which defects were found:

	<u>Found</u>	<u>Remedied</u>
Sanitary Conveniences:		
Unsuitable or defective	1	1

Outwork

Nature of Work: making etc., of wearing apparel.

Number of outworkers in Aug. list required by Sec.110 (1) (c) .. 7



